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ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 6-11, 13, 15-17, 18-23 and 25-34 have been canceled. Claims 2, 12, 14 and 24 have been amended and claims 35 and 36 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of the above amendment, claims 2, 12, 14, 24, 35 and 36 will remain pending and under consideration in the application.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-5, 12-17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Herzig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,985,462).

This rejection has been overcome by the above amendments, which require that the hyperbranched polymers are linked to each other solely by the linear polymers, and solely at the terminals of the linear polymers. The Herzig et al. patent discloses a single example (Example 9) of a composition comprising hyperbranched polymers (cross-linker 7) and an alpha,omega-telechelic linear polymer. However, the composition also contains cross-linker B², which is apparently a linear polymer having a plurality of pendant functional groups (not terminal groups) that are reactive with the terminal groups on the alpha,omega-telechelic linear polymer. Accordingly, the composition of Example 9 of the Herzig et al. patent is not free of compounds other than the hyperbranched polymer which have functional groups that will react with the terminal functional groups of the alpha,omega-telechelic linear polymer, as required by the claims. Further, Herzig et al. does not provide any teaching or suggestion for excluding non-hyperbranched polymer compounds that are reactive with the terminal functional groups of the alpha,omega-telechelic linear polymer, but instead only suggest that the addition of "Carbosiloxane cross-linker 7" provides a formulation that "cures far more quickly under processing conditions than does the comparative formulation."

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the Herzig et al. reference.

Claims 1-5, 12-17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Milco et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,095).

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended above patentably distinguish over the teachings of the Milco et al. patent. The Milco et al. patent discloses a curable

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composition comprising a carboxy/perfluoroalkyl-terminated hyperbranched polymer and a linear copolymer having pendant (not terminal) oxazoline moieties that are reactive with terminal functional groups of the hyperbranched polymer. Thus, the Milco et al. patent does not disclose curable systems comprising alpha,omega-linear polymers having only terminal groups that are reactive with the hyperbranched polymer, nor does the Milco et al. patent suggest the same. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the Milco et al. patent.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notice of same is earnestly solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

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GJE/dac



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